



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

April 3, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to collect, transfer upstream, and temporarily hold wild westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout in containment structures (enclosures) to test Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling techniques. Fish would be temporarily held in upstream reaches (above natural barriers and within the same stream drainage) where the transported species is known to be absent. Refinement of this sampling technique is being conducted in collaboration with the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station and is viewed as a critical step in developing a fisheries sampling tool that could become a standard technique in Montana.

This EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Public Notices," beginning April 3).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (information above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 4, 2015.

As part of the decision making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Arnold", written in a cursive style.

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr